

MY OWN ILLINOIS.

There is many a pleasant land that lies
Under the sky of Illinois.
Countries fair, whose beauty rare
Is the theme of half a world.
But in each wanderer's heart of hearts,
Could his true choice be known,
Ever you'll find inscribed the name
Of the land he calls his own.
And to me, there is a haunting melody,
That no discord doth destroy,
In the soft, sonorous title of
My Own Illinois.

I claim for her no legends,
Like the German for his Rhine,
She does not boast the classic palm,
Nor yet the gothic pine;
But, like some gray-eyed, brown-haired maid,
Not blonde, nor dark brunette,
The temperate charm that is her own
Her loveliness ne'er forgets.
From tropic sun, or arctic seas,
No force extremes alloy
The hope-inspiring air that sweeps
My Own Illinois.

How blithely o'er her fertile fields
The prairie breezes blow
Across the level corn lands,
Where a nation's harvest grows.
The royal Mississippi laves
Her golden sunset side;
Gleams on her brow Lake Michigan,
A coronal of pride;
Her stately garden city towers
With worthy pride up-beyond
Above all would-be rival States
My Own Illinois.

Dear State, the clime of thy wild flower,
The song of thy wild bird,
Were of color, and of music,
All my childhood saw or heard;
Thrilling, like scenes of paradise,
Across these dusty years,
They still make tenderest memories
That tremble into tears.
Untouched by bitterness, and like
A child's kiss, sweet and coy,
Drifts back the dream of innocence in
My Own Illinois.

When on me down that fateful hour—
The Archer Death's own time,
Perchance his shaft may still this heart
In some far foreign clime
But I pray that dreamless dust may sleep
Where his song of reckless joy
The blackbird pipes to the prairie sod
In My Own Illinois.

CHICAGO, ILL.

AT THE OPEN WINDOW.

BY WILL RICHARD KERNAN.

FALLING WATER is the name of the most picturesque spot in the Cumberland country of Tennessee. It is situated a few miles south of Cookeville, and is one of the first places visited by tourists who venture up to that highland village. Caney Fork, a tributary of the Cumberland River, rises in the mountains, and surges over the rocky ledges a full hundred feet into the sequestered valley below. And it is this cataract that is known as Falling Water.

The surrounding country is wild, lonely, and romantic, and was a favorite resort of the moonshiners, until the United States revenue officers swept down upon them, shooting a few of their dead and sending many of them to the penitentiary.

Not far from Falling Water is a deep, precipitous ravine, the sides of which are covered with pines and an impenetrable undergrowth of vines and shrubbery. The density of the foliage hides the bottom of the ravine from view, but if you follow a dim, bridle-path trending from the road, you will find that it leads to the door of an old cabin surrounded by a stake-and-rider fence, half hidden by blackberry bushes, sassafras, and weeds.

This cabin was the home of old Melton, a moonshiner, and his family, until the spring of 1879.

The still was located within a stone's throw of the house, between two gigantic boulders, and so cleverly was it hidden by the rocky walls that towered up on three sides of it, and so circumscribed in was it on the remaining side by the vines that fell in green festoons from the gray ledges of free-stone above, that the old moonshiner felt himself perfectly safe from the prying eyes of both officers and informers.

One evening about dark, as old Melton sat in the gallery of his cabin, drawing consolation alternately from a stone jug and a corn-cob pipe, he was saluted by a young man on horseback, who had ridden up from the right and whose face betrayed an expression of keen annoyance.

"Hello!" cried the horseman, drawing rein, "can you tell me how far it is to Cookeville?"

"'Bout 'fo' miles, stranger," replied Melton, rising to his feet and slouching forward. "Hev' yo' lost yer bearin'?"

"Yes; went down to old Davenport's to collect a bill this morning and."

"Long Jack Davenport's, stranger?"

"Yes; up at the head of Caney Fork, and—"

"Why didn't yo' turn to the left when yo' came to Squar Mills' place?"

"I did; but I took the wrong road out in that confounded flat woods."

"Jesso, jesso! Been thar myself! 'Tis a puzzle to a stranger. An' what shall I call yer name?"

"Wilford—Harry Wilford."

"Any relation t' the Wilfords down t' Smith's Fork?"

"No; my home is in Nashville. Am a professional man there. Had to look after a farm of mine down in DeKalb County, and so I concluded to ride up here and collect a bill from old Davenport before I went back to Lebanon."

The old man wasn't at home, though. By the way, could I find a place here or hereabout to stay all night? It will rain long before I can reach Cookeville."

"I dunno. P'raps Henry Q. could keep yo'."

"Who is Henry Q., and where does he reside?"

"Henry Q. Clark, yo' know. Lives 'bout a quarter out on the Cookeville road yander," pointing to the left. "Henry Q.'s rich—Henry Q. is. His house must 'a' cost a cool five hundred. Jest feller thar—"

A blinding flash, a thunder-peal and a driving torrent of rain interrupted the speaker.

"Wall, I say, Mr. Wilford, if that are's ther way ther weather's er-gwine

ter act, I low yo'd better stay with we'uns. We haint much t' offer, but sech ez we hev yo're welcome to."

Wilford leaped from his saddle, threw the reins over a sapling bough, and bounded gracefully over the grass into the cabin. He was a tall, slender, handsome young fellow, with blonde hair, a beardle-a face, and large, blue, winning eyes, that sparkled with humor or scintillated with wrath according to his varying moods.

Mrs. Melton was sitting before the huge fire-place, industriously dipping snuff. She was a lank and angular woman of forty, barefooted and dressed in homespun. She rose as Wilford came in, responding to his bow with a queer little bob of her head, and then withdrew into the kitchen.

The room in which Wilford found himself was large and trimly kept. A bedstead stood in one corner, while a row of rush-bottom chairs, a table and a spinning-wheel completed the stock of furniture. On the log walls of the cabin were tacked a few unframed photographs of family relations, while on the mantel was a little mirror in a pine-cone frame.

Mrs. Melton returned presently, and began to spread the table for supper. While bringing in the last dishes, a large, bony, and sallow girl ran into the room, her garments dripping with rain and clinging close to her stalwart frame.

"Whoop-ee! but wasn't I skeered!" The lightning struck a tree not—"

She stopped short on seeing Wilford, her eyes flashed with anger, and she ran out of the room as unceremoniously as she had come into it.

"Thet thar's my darter Nance," remarked old Melton; "an' she's the smartest gal in these hyar mountings. She was sorter set back when she seed yo', but she'll come in arter'erwhile an' play us a chune on the organette."

Nance is a pow'ful hand at the organette, Nance is."

"Supper's ready," vouchsafed Mrs. Melton, in a high, cracked voice. "Sit thar, stranger, an' reach fer yo'self."

Old Melton bowed his head, said grace with all the gravity of a minister, and then plunged headlong into a discussion of religion.



"CAN YOU TELL ME HOW FAR IT IS TO COOKEVILLE?"

"I 'blong to the Baptists, I do, Tilda—thet's my wife thar—she 'blongs to the Hardshell Baptists, the no'-cost church in these hyar mountings. Nance thar's been a thearin' ter jine the Methodisses, but if she do I'll drub her till she can't holler."

The wife made no reply to the fling at her faith, but Nance glared at her father, and then, bringing her fist down on the table so fiercely that the dishes danced, she cried:

"I'll jine—I'll jine—I'll jine—I'll be damned if I don't jine!" and turning over her chair she fled the room, banging the door behind her as she went.

Old Melton said nothing, but he clinched his teeth with an ominous significance.

Supper over and the table cleared off, the old man went to the kitchen door and called for Nance.

"What do yo' want?" inquired the girl.

"I want yo' to come an' play us a chune on the organette."

"I wont."



"THROTTLING MELTON, HE DARED HIM AGAINST THE ROCKY WALL."

"Yo' will."

"I tell you, pop, I wont."

"Yo' wuthless wench! I'll larn ye who's boss. I'll beat you till the blood runs down yer legs, so hep me!"

Running to a distant corner of the main room he caught up a gnarled hickory cane and hastened back to the kitchen.

"Where's Nance?" he demanded of his wife.

"She done put out while yo' was lookin' fer yer stick," was the answer. "The slut! I'll find her an' wallop her like I would a dog."

"Stay, sir!" cried Wilford, as Melton opened the door. "Stay, sir! Surely you wouldn't strike a woman?"

"I wouldn't, eh? I'll whip her like a dog, I tell yo'."

Stand back!" and tearing himself loose from the grasp of his guest, he rushed out into the darkness and was swallowed up in the night.

Suddenly a wild scream rang high over the roaring of the wind in the pines—a scream so pitiful that Wilford rushed off in the direction from whence it came.

"Help! help! help!"

It was a woman's voice—Nance's voice—and Wilford hurried forward through the blinding rain and darkness of the wretched night, till he stood in front of the towering boulders that shut in the still.

"Damn yo'!" he heard Melton pant, "yo'll disgrace yo'self an' yo' family afore strangers ag'in, will yo'? Yo'll jine the Methodisses, will yo'?" and with that he struck his daughter a fearful blow, causing her to reel forward at the feet of the young man.

"Dog!" cried Wilford, "devil! Take that!" and throttling Melton, he dashed him against the rocky wall and struck him between the eyes.

Melton drew a revolver, but, before he could use it, Wilford wrested it from his hand, and knocked him headlong into the shelter of the still.

"Ha!" cried Wilford, as a vivid flash of lightning revealed the character of his surroundings. "A moonshiner, I see. I thought as much," and, taking a pair of handcuffs from his pocket, he clasped them on the wrists of the prostrate man.

"You will come with me," he continued, dragging his prisoner into the open air. "You will come with me. I have been looking for this still of yours since last December, but I wouldn't have found it if you hadn't been the brute that you are."

Stunned, confused, the old man staggered to his feet.

"What is hit, daddy? Why don't yo' speak?"

It was the daughter who spoke—it was the bruised and bleeding daughter who now flung her apron around the old man, and kissed his wrinkled face.

"Hit's all up with we'uns, Nance," answered the old man in a husky voice.

"Hit's all up with we'uns. This feller's a detective."

"I knowed hit, daddy—I knowed hit."

He's been prowlin' round hyar all day. I'd a-told yo', but I seed he hadn't discovered the still, an' I didn't want his blood on yo' hands. But," and she hissed the words through her set teeth, "I'd a warned yo' when I went home of I'd a knowed hit'd come ter this."

The party went back to the cabin, and at daybreak Wilford prepared to



"CAN YOU TELL ME HOW FAR IT IS TO COOKEVILLE?"

start with his prisoner for Cookeville. They had proceeded less than twenty yards from the door, when the sharp report of a rifle was heard, and Wilford reeled from his saddle—dead.

At the same moment the white, tense, desperate face of Nance vanished from the open window.

Caught Napping.

Stranger—Beg pardon for interrupting, but you probably noticed in the papers this morning that Lord Nabob, who is on a visit to this county, met with an accident in the park yesterday. He is a stranger here, and some prominent citizen like yourself should see that he receives proper attention.

Business Man (much flattered).—Really, I had not thought much of it, but—

Stranger—You probably noticed in the paper, too, that six persons were injured yesterday in a subway explosion.

"Why, yes. Were there any lords among them?"

"Possibly. No telling. Two men were killed yesterday by electric wires."

"I noticed that; but—"

"And a number of persons were run over."

"Yes, but the lord—"

"Ah, yes. The Lord wills, and we must bow; but our families should not be forgotten, sir; and as we are hourly exposed to these dangers, I thought possibly you might wish to get insured in the 'Sure-Pop Life and Accident Company,' of which I am an agent."

—New York Weekly.

Was Wid Him.

An old negro was sleeping alone in a cabin was awakened by a noise in the room, and striking a light, saw a man attempting to open a drawer.

"What you doin' dar?"

The robber, himself a negro, answered: "Tryin' ter see what you got in dis house."

"Dar ain't nothin' yere dat 'longs ter you."

"Will 'long ter me when I gits my han' on it."

"Look yere, generman, tell you whut I'll do. I'll shoot craps wid you right here."

"Ise wid you," the robber answered. "Fetch out yo' bones."—Arkansas Traveler.

Rough on the Roof.

Builder—I want you to do something for me.

Friend—What is it?

"You see this house is almost finished, excepting shingling the roof."

"So I perceive."

"Well, I want you to look around and see if you can't find a thin carpenter who does not weigh more than 120 pounds. I must have a light carpenter to put on those shingles. If a heavy man goes up on that roof the whole house will tumble in."

CRAZY FOR ANTIQUES.

CHICAGO FURNITURE MANUFACTURERS FORCED TO ODD CONCEITS.

Everybody Apes the Fashions Popular with a Race Who Have Long Been Food for Worms—Some of the Articles, After All, but Hollow Shams, Oxidized Shams, and Iron-Bound Mockeries.



THE sixteenth century oak with oxidized metal trimmings is the very latest novelty in parlor and living room furniture, and nowhere in the country are these back-number conceits reproduced in such perfection as by the Chicago manufacturer.

Sales-rooms are filled with the artistic creations, and advertising pages fairly burgeon with fancy etchings furnished by furniture dealers, of whom none are so enterprising as our own. The articles are one seen in first-class houses are made up in both natural and antique designs, dull and polished, and in a style which shows that furniture as well as history repeats itself.

Most of the new goods are odds and ends for library, parlor, and hall furniture, and all more or less bound with metal. Marble tops for dressers, mantels and center tables are going out of date, but this



style of trimmings is still popular in grave-yard decorations.

Plain oak is the most popular style of furniture at present, and takes the lead in the sixteen different kinds of wood now in demand. Complete chamber sets in ash, Georgia pine, California redwood, maple, walnut, birch, cherry, mahogany, oak, ebony, rosewood, sycamore, white mahogany, satinwood, butternut, and olive can be found at the leading furniture houses in the city.

We find that plain oak polished has the preference over all the others," said a salesman in a Wabash avenue house. "This is the case with the masses, as well as our more aristocratic customers. Fancy carved work in chamber suits is no longer in demand, and some even prefer the dull shellac finish instead of polished goods. In dining-room furnishings the chairs are not so high-backed as formerly, and the round dining-table takes the lead, though the square ones are still being used. The variety of sideboards is now so extensive that the people are no longer building them into their houses, as they can buy any style they want ready-made."

One of the very latest novelties is the gentleman's Oriental shaving cabinet. It is called the gentleman's cabinet to distinguish it from the ladies' shaving cabinet, which will be out soon.

The cabinet is of antique oak, sixteenth century finish, four feet high, and two feet wide, fitted with drawers and lockers for lather, razors, towels, and whetstones. The top is surmounted by a small mirror set in a carved frame and hung on swivels. It is a handy thing to have in the house, and is mounted on rollers so that it can be moved at will. If the gentleman doesn't want to shave in a certain room he can shove the machine into another part of the house. The drawer handles and hinges are of oxidized brass, the hinges which are on the locker extending half way across the door.

Another cabinet is a combined barber-shop, wardrobe, dressing-case, and chiffonier of antique oak, paneled, iron trimmings, and carved doors. It is considerably larger than the Oriental cabinet.

And if it combined a folding-bed along with its other conveniences would be about a complete chamber-set for a bachelor's quarters. The Grecian is still another novelty in this line, but smaller than the other two, standing on raised legs handsomely carved and mounted with polished metal.

For the encouragement of Chicago literature a firm turns out sixty different styles in writing-tables. They range from the massive office-desk to the dainty secretary suggestive of love-letters epistles traced on parchment paper. All the known timber susceptible to the designer and cabinet-maker's art enter into the composition of these tables. The handsomest are of antique oak, until lately used only in odd



pieces, but which now takes first place in one of these desks desire to close an improper or unprofitable correspondence, he enters into the composition of these tables. The handsomest are of antique oak, until lately used only in odd

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STUFF AND NONSENSE.

SET in her ways—a brooding hen. A SWALLOW-TAIL—the story of Jonah and the whale.

FIRST mattress—How do you feel? Second mattress—Full as a tick.

THE monkey goes to the sunny side of the tree when he wants a warmer climb.

PRAYERS may go begging for an answer, but "What'll you have?" never does.

PUTTIN' a patched dime in the collection box is like buyin' a scalper's ticket to heaven.

SOUP a la Jay Gould—take a little stock, six times as much water, and then put in the lamb.

TEACHER—"Anonymous" means "without a name." Give an example, Miss Griggs. Miss Griggs—"My baby sister is anonymous."

LOAFER—How are you? Just thought I'd drop in a while to kill time. Busy Man—Well, we don't want any of our time killed.

BROWN—How time flies, Jenkins—I am not aware of its speedy passage. B.—Then you have not a note to pay. J.—No; I hold yours.

BLOODGOOD—Silby always reminds me of a breeze that comes before a summer's rainstorm. Travis—Why? "Because," answered Bloodgood, "he is so fresh."

"THIS is a little late for you to be out, isn't it, Peck? Aren't you afraid your wife will miss you?" Mr. N. Peck—I hope she will. She can find things pretty straight, though.

MRS. HINTON (recently married)—Did you know my husband was very ill? Miss Carrington—I suppose he must be, my dear. Before he married you he told me I had broken his heart.

VISITOR—(to bereaved widow)—Your husband, I understand, was killed in a factory? Widow—Alas, yes; poor dear William was reckoned a smart man, but he didn't know much about fly-wheels.

STATION-MASTER—Come, come, my good man, you mustn't walk on the track. Tramp (disgustedly)—The conductor says I can't ride, and you say I can't walk. What's your blamed old road here for, anyway?

WILLIE—I wonder why I can't make my kite fly? Elder sister—Perhaps the caudal appendage is disproportionate to the superficial area. Willie—I don't think that's it. I believe there isn't weight enough on the tail.

MRS. STATESMAN—Do you know, sir, that you came home last night in an utterly disgraceful condition? Mr. Statesman (swallowing about a quart of water)—Woman, do you know that the time of year has arrived when the country 'haws to be saved again?

MRS. SKINNIFLINT—Josiah, don't you think Johnny's hair needs cutting? Mr. Skinniflint (looking up from his paper)—How long is it till Christmas? A little over five weeks. (Resuming his paper)—All right, I'll give him a hair-cut for a Christmas present.

A COMPLICATED FUNERAL. O bury my arms in dear Mexico. And bury my heart in the South. O bury my legs in the State of New York. In Georgia please bury my mouth. For I have been married at least four times.

To spouses who're laid down their lives, And now that I'm dead I wish to be placed At the side of my various wives.

BROWN—And so you have got a first-rate cook? What paper did you advertise in? Fogg—Didn't advertise in any. My wife told Mrs. Gray we wanted a girl, but made her promise not to tell anybody. "Well?" "Well, we had the door-bell ringing for a fortnight from morning till night. No less than a hundred applications for the place."

"Ah, Mrs. Blackstreet, it's very lucky I did not meet you at the time that picture was taken."

"Ah, Doctor, I'm afraid you are a flatterer. Do you mean lucky for me?" "Ahem, no, not exactly. Lucky for me."

Wanted to Satisfy Him. Prominent Citizen—Slade of Metropolitan Hotel has just killed another feller—tourist from the East som'eres. Second Prominent Citizen—What was the feller doin' to Slade?

"Nuthin' only givin' his orders. Wanted a fire in his room, weather strips on the door, soap, towel, hot water, more quilts, and I fergit what else. An' Slade shot him."

"Oh, I s'pose Slade reckoned it was a pity that a feller who wanted heaven so bad shouldn't have it."—Munsey's Weekly.

He Found a Job. "Has your husband found work yet, Mrs. McGarrity?"

"He hez ther, mum. He's a picter hanger."

"A picture hanger? Why, I